

The

THE MASTER CRIME FIGHTER KNOWN TO THE WORLD AS
THE SPIRIT, IS REALLY DENNY COLT, LONG BELIEVED DEAD..
ONLY COMMISSIONER DOLAN KNOWS WHO HE IS.

YES, EBONY, ALL
I FOUND ON THE
DOCK WAS HIS
CLOTHES AND THE
GUN HE SHOT HIM-
SELF WITH... THE
BUBBLES IN THE
WATER WERE THE
ONLY SIGN OF
**ORANG, THE APE
WHO COULD
THINK LIKE A
HUMAN!**



DAT SHO'
WAS AN EXCITIN'
CASE, MISTUH
SPIRIT! GOLLY,
DOES YO THINK
HE IS REALLY
DEAD?

SPIRIT

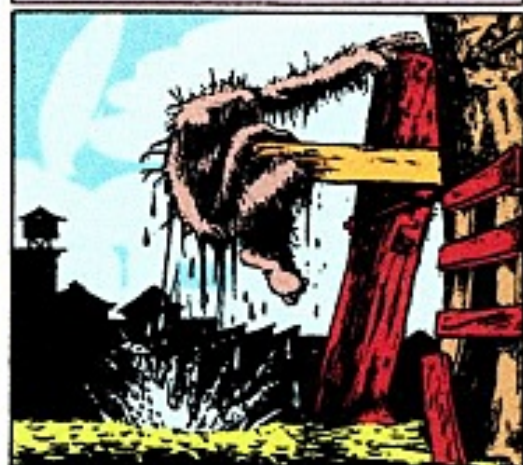
BY
*WILL
FISHER*

Distributed by Register and Tribune Syndicate

**THE RETURN OF
ORANG**
THE APE THAT
IS HUMAN!



OUT OF THE MURKY OIL-SPOTTED
WATERS OF THE EAST RIVER
RISES A GRIM FORM.. SLOWLY,
PAINFULLY, HE PULLS HIS HAIRY
BODY ONTO A PIER..





SAY, OFFICER, COULD YOU DIRECT ME TO A DOCTOR?

YEAH, A DR. HARDY.. AT THE END OF DOCK STREET.



YES?

I WISH TO SEE DR. HARDY AT ONCE!



COME IN, HE'LL BE RIGHT DOWN! OHH!



WHAT'S HAPPENED?

SHE FAINTED WHEN SHE LOOKED AT ME!



ODD!! SARAH NEVER DID FEAR BLOOD, SHE'S A TRAINED NURSE!

IT WAS MY FACE THAT FRIGHTENED HER.



SEE?



WHY, YOU'RE AN APE! AND YOU CAN TALK!

YES YES YES! NOW STOP GAPING, AND HELP ME.. I-I SHOT MYSELF! ATTEMPTED SUICIDE! ... HURRY! I'M LOSING BLOOD.. FAST!



STILL SHOCKED AND AMAZED, THE DOCTOR PLACES ORANS UNDER ETHER AND EXTRACTS THE BULLET.

THERE.. IT'S DONE! NOW, WHILE HE'S ASLEEP..



HELLO, POLICE HEADQUARTERS.. COMMISSIONER DOLAN? THIS IS DR. HARDY... COME HERE AT ONCE! HURRY!

IN A FEW MINUTES THE POLICE ARRIVE.



GOT HERE AS SOON AS I COULD.. WHAT'S THIS ABOUT A TALKING APE?



SHH.. HE'S COMING OUT OF THE ETHER.



OOOH.. MY HEAD ACHES..WHO IS THIS MAN?

I'LL BE..



I'M COMMISSIONER DOLAN..YOU'RE UNDER ARREST!

WHAT FOR?

WELL..ER.. THAT IS.. WELL YOU CAN'T GO AROUND ACTIN'.... THAT IS, TALKIN'.. BESIDES, I'M POLICE COMMISSIONER AND CAN ARREST ANYONE I DARN PLEASE!



NO YOU CAN'T! I'VE HARMED NO ONE..JUST BECAUSE I'M AN APE AND CAN TALK?? THERE ARE MANY MEN ON THE FORCE WHO LOOK LIKE ME!



OH!FRESH, EH? HEY! WHERE YA GOIN'?

I DON'T KNOW.. NOR DO I CARE!



SLAM!



I'VE AN IDEA.. SEE YOU AT HEADQUARTERS LATER!



HEY! WAIT A MINUTE! LISTEN..YOU'VE GOT NO PLACE TO STAY EXCEPT THE ZOO... HOW ABOUT STAYING AT MY HOUSE FOR TONIGHT, SO YOU'LL KEEP OUT OF TROUBLE?

OH.. VERY WELL!

THUS, AT DOLAN'S HOME THAT NIGHT... ELLEN ARRIVES.



THE GIRL'S SHRIEK AWAKENS THE SAVAGE IN HIS MIND...HE LIFTS THE UNCONSCIOUS FORM IN HIS ARMS.



LEAVING HIS PLANE IN A LITTLE OUTPOST TOWN, THE SPIRIT SETS OUT ALONE INTO THE STEAMING JUNGLES.

ACROSS THE PACIFIC TO SUMATRA THE SPIRIT FOLLOWS THEIR TRAIL.



AT LAST, ON THE DUSK OF THE FIFTH DAY, HE SEES A GIRL RUNNING ACROSS THE HORIZON



AT LAST, ELLEN RECOVERS.

FINDING YOU WASN'T HARD. THE TOWNSPEOPLE ALL ALONG THE COAST HEARD OF A STRANGE APE-MAN AND HIS GIRL COMPANION.

IT WAS HORRIBLE! MANY TIMES I TRIED TO ESCAPE HIM, BUT HE WATCHED ME....



LET'S HEAD BACK TO THE COAST!



OH OH! APES!

SURROUNDED!



SO, YOU STILL TRY TO ESCAPE ME. THIS IS THE JUNGLE, WHERE I AM SUPERIOR. TO MY TRIBE I AM NOT A FREAK!



TIE THEM UP! THEY SHALL PAY FOR CIVILIZATION'S CRUELTY TO ME! THEY SHALL PAY WITH THEIR LIVES!



AND AS A TROPICAL MOON THROWS ITS WEIRD GLOW ON A CLEARING, THE APES GATHER FOR THE CHANT OF DEATH FOR THE HUMANS.

DEATH TO THEM, MY BROTHERS. DEATH! DEATH!

IN THE CIRCLE OF OLDER APES, JEALOUS AAKA, DEPOSED BY ORANG, AROUSES HIS TRIBE. "LISTEN TO ORANG, OUR BROTHER, HE SHRIEKS, HE IS NOT LIKE US!"...



.. "HE SPEAKS LIKE WEAK HUMANS. YET HE WOULD LEAD US. I CHALLENGE HIM BY THE LAW OF THE JUNGLE."... KEYED TO A WILD FRENZY, THE APES LEAP ON ORANG....



IT'S NOW OR NEVER, ELLEN. IT'S OUR ONLY CHANCE TO ESCAPE!

HURRY!

STRAINING EVERY MUSCLE, THE SPIRIT SNAPS HIS BONDS.

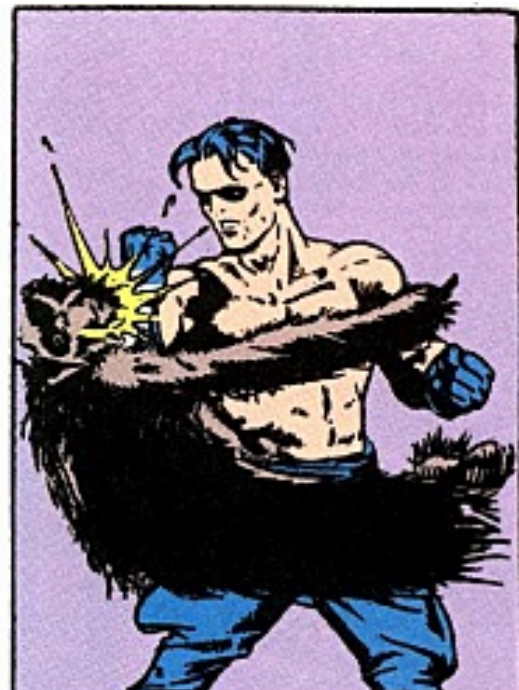


I'LL HAVE YOU FREE IN A SECOND, ELLEN!



THIS WAY!

BACK IN THE CLEARING, THE STRUGGLE HAS NARROWED DOWN TO ORANG AND AAKA. THE REST OF THE TRIBE FOLLOW THE FLEEING COUPLE.



UP THE MOUNTAIN, QUICK! ONCE THERE, WE'LL BE SAFE!



AT THE TOP OF THE MOUNTAIN THEY TURN, IN TIME TO SEE THE DEATH OF THE SAD ORANG AT THE HANDS OF AAKA, HIS RIVAL.



PENNY FOR YOUR THOUGHTS, MR. SPIRIT.

...ER... THINKING OF POOR ORANG.



IS THAT ALL? DOESN'T MOONLIGHT MEAN ANYTHING TO YOU?

NO... OF COURSE NOT.



ARE YOU SURE?



WELL, COME TO THINK OF IT... NO!